

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

OHIO STATE ASYLUM

FOR THE EDUCATION OF

IDIOTIC AND IMBECILE YOUTH,

TO THE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

FOR THE YEAR 1861.

COLUMBUS

RICHARD NEVINS, STATE PRINTER.

1862.

OHIO STATE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS, }
COLUMBUS, November 1, 1861. }

HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM DENNISON, *Governor of Ohio* :

Sir : I have the honor of herewith communicating to you the Fifth Annual Report of the Trustees of this Institution, with the Report of Dr. G. A. Doren, Superintendent.

Respectfully yours,

H. CANFIELD, *President.*

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

TRUSTEES,

Hon. H. CANFIELD MEDINA, O.
Hon. N. S. TOWNSHEND, M.D. AVON, O.
W. E. IDE, M.D. COLUMBUS, O.

SUPERINTENDENT,

G. A. DOREN, M.D.

MATRON,

MISS HARRIET F. PURPLE.

TEACHERS,

MISS EMILY C. WHITMAN,
MISS L. N. HUTCHINSON.

A very faint, light-colored watermark or background image of a classical building with four columns and a triangular pediment is visible across the entire page.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Ohio :

The Trustees of the Ohio State Asylum for Idiotic and Imbecile Youth, respectfully submit their fifth annual Report.

At the commencement of the present year it was deemed advisable by the Trustees that the capacity of the Institution be enlarged so as to accommodate an increased number of pupils. This measure was also informally recommended by the Legislative committee having this asylum in charge at the last session of the Legislature. Accordingly, as early in the season as practicable, the Trustees authorized the construction of an additional gymnasium and dormitory in the building adjoining the south wing, and formerly used for another purpose.

The work was completed prior to the commencement of the present term of the school, and has been done in a substantial, and at the same time, in a very economical manner. By means of this enlargement, accomplished at a comparatively small expense, the Institution now accommodates fifty pupils, at a cost but little exceeding that of sustaining and training its former more limited number.

The details relating to the training of the pupils, and to the internal management of the Institution, as well as general remarks and valuable practical views relating to the subject of Idiocy, will be found in the Report of the Superintendent, herewith submitted. We will only add, that the duties of Superintendent and teachers have been laboriously and faithfully discharged ; and that by their untiring assiduity and perseverance in their appropriate spheres, the Institution has not only maintained its former prosperity, but advanced its usefulness and efficiency.

The Trustees have endeavored to manage its financial affairs with the strictest economy consistent with a proper development of the objects, and a proper accomplishment of the purposes for which it was created. The employment of the larger and more advanced pupils at proper times, in labor appropriate to their age and condition, will tend still further to diminish the expense of the school, and at the same time contribute to the physical welfare and useful education of the pupils so employed.

We do not, of course, urge any further material enlargement of the Institution in the present straitened and critical condition of public affairs, but we are more than ever of the opinion that such a measure, at the earliest practical moment, is demanded by considerations, both of humanity and public economy.

Since our last report, Hon. A. Cook, who, until then, occupied the position of Trustee, in consequence of his duties in the army, resigned the place he filled so long, and so much to the interests of the asylum.

In conclusion, we cannot refrain from an expression of gratitude to the kind Providence which has thus far signally prospered the labors of the Institution for the accomplishment of great good to a hitherto neglected and helpless class, and under the guidance of which we believe still larger and more benificent results may be attained.

HERMAN CANFIELD,
N. S. TOWNSHEND,

Trustees.

COLUMBUS, O., Nov. 15, 1861

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

OHIO STATE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTIC AND IMBECILE YOUTH, }
November 1, 1861. }

To the Board of Trustees :

GENTLEMEN :--In February last, by your appointment, I entered upon the discharge of the duties of Superintendent of this Institution, Dr. Patterson, my predecessor, having resigned the position to take charge of the Lunatic Asylum of the State of Iowa.

The past year has been to us one of uninterrupted prosperity. There has been comparatively little sickness, and no deaths since the date of the last report; indeed, there have been no deaths among the pupils since its organization, an immunity which is remarkable, considering the frequent physical as well as mental feebleness which characterizes this class of persons.

The Matron and teachers, with the exception of Miss Burbank, who has withdrawn temporarily on account of impaired health, still continue to discharge their respective duties with marked devotion. All connected with the Institution continue to display an untiring interest in the work assigned to them.

The whole number who have been under instruction the past year is fifty-four. The Asylum now contains forty-seven pupils, being an increase of twelve from last year. Under your direction, the building attached to the main structure, but heretofore used for another purpose, has been raised one story, and improved in such a manner that the lower room is now used as a gymnasium, and the upper story as a dormitory. By this improvement we have greatly added to the convenience and capacity of the building, and are able to accommodate the increased number of pupils above reported. Notwithstanding the increase of pupils, the number of persons employed on wages has been diminished, in consequence of teaching the pupils to perform many duties, for which other persons were formerly required: the females being assigned to the appropriate tasks of the household, and the males to suitable labors out of doors. Thus are we demonstrating within the Institution the practical benefits of educating this class; and a two fold good is secured: the labors imposed are a very important means of physical and mental culture, and they contribute in some degree to their maintenance during the process of training. It is true that this system imposes greater care and responsibility upon all the officers and attendants, but this is more than compensated by the highly satisfactory results. And I take great pleasure in this connection in

expressing my obligations to each of the officers and attendants, for the readiness with which they have coöperated with me in this measure, and the cheerfulness with which they have assumed the increased cares that have consequently devolved upon them.

Of the pupils now in the Asylum, sixteen have been under instruction less than one year, their progress has generally been satisfactory for the time; the remainder have been under instruction from one to three years, and their progress has been still more marked and encouraging. They have improved in general intelligence and in the power of self-control; correct habits have taken the place of those that were vicious and disgusting; the wandering eye, and still more wandering mind, are fixed; once feeble or wayward muscles are made to respond to the will with promptness and precision.

Of the pupils in the Institution at the date of the last report, fourteen have learned to read and write, and obtained some appreciation of the first rules of arithmetic. While individual cases have disappointed us, the general result of the instruction given has been better than could have been anticipated in the beginning. Of the twelve girls in the Institution last year, seven have learned to sew neatly, and to perform other light and agreeable domestic duties. For the past season we have had twenty boys, and of this number five were large enough to work, while others could perform light tasks about the garden. With these children we have worked effectively four acres of ground, and been enabled to raise abundance of vegetables for the use of our whole family during the season and for the coming winter.

The beneficial effect of productive labor upon the children has been very perceptible; they have taken great interest in their labor and felt great pride in their success, evidently feeling the striking contrast between their former indolence and inactivity, and their present cheerful and busy spirit. But aside from these results, and as a sanitary measure merely, we should still deem it necessary to pursue our plan of labor with this class, most of whom are poorly developed and ill conditioned physically. So intimate are the relations of mind and body, that what affects the one beneficially is a gain to the other, and nothing tends more to break up the listless inactivity so characteristic of feeble-minded children, than cheerful pleasant labor in the open air; the constant change that meets the eye invites and cultivates observation and attention, and awakens new thoughts and feelings.

The means of providing some permanent employment for our pupils is a matter which demands attention. For this purpose it is believed that nothing would be more desirable than a farm, the great variety of labor which a farm affords being an especial advantage to this class. This subject was presented to you, in detail, by my predecessor in his last annual report, and his opinions have received the corroboration of our own experience during the present year. The importance of teaching this class of unfortunates to labor is, we fear, overlooked. It is not my wish to raise extravagant hopes for them, but the fact, we think, is demonstrable,

that two-thirds of the feeble-minded children, who are now allowed to become helpless burdens upon community, could be made to perform, under intelligent direction, an amount of labor equivalent to their maintenance. All this has been shown conclusively in institutions of this kind, both in this country and in Europe.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that our State which has provided so bountifully for other dependent classes, for whose comfort and well-being State provision has been found indispensable, will also extend this institution so as to make it commensurate with the evil it was designed to mitigate. There are in this State over twenty-five hundred idiots. Of this number one-fifth are of suitable age for instruction. As nearly as can be estimated, two-fifths of the whole number are now supported at public expense. By refusing to educate those who are capable of improvement, we do not relieve the public of the cost of their maintenance; on the contrary, we should be neglecting the only means by which the burden can be lessened. It is useless to expect their education at home, where, besides the lack of the necessary skill and experience, there would probably be an absolute want of the various appliances which are necessary to the physical and intellectual training of this class. Nor is the course of instruction pursued in our public schools adapted to their wants; even the amusements of other children are not such as can be shared by them. In county infirmaries their improvement is equally out of the question, and their condition still more lamentable, for they are allowed larger license with correspondingly humiliating results; they there come in contact with broken down drunkards and vagabonds, who find amusement in teaching them the vilest of habits. Their condition in the family may be better so far as physical comfort is concerned, but for their education nothing effectual is done, and they are permitted to sink lower and lower continually, when they might have been made equal to the ordinary duties of life by proper management and instruction. The reason of this neglect seems to be in part at least the persuasion that idiocy or imbecility is the same thing everywhere and always incurable—a persuasion which we might presume to be untrue from its deplorable tendencies, but which has of late years been proven to be false in every particular.

May it not be desirable, through the agency of the public press, to endeavor to correct the many misapprehensions that prevail on the subject of idiocy, and especially with regard to the aims and means of this Institution? The number and character of the applications for admission demonstrate the amount of misunderstanding which exists. Many applications are made on behalf of adults, evidently from the impression that the Institution is custodial, as well as educational. To meet the wants of this class throughout the State, the Asylum would probably require to be extended to twenty times its present capacity. Applications are continually made in behalf of children of suitable age, by persons who cannot understand why all who apply are not at once received, as in the case of the other benevolent institutions. It is indeed painful to repulse such applications, especially as such refusal must in many instances consign a fellow-being to a condition utterly helpless and hopeless. But, until the State shall make provisions for this class, on

the same scale that provision has been made for other unfortunates, these refusals must be of almost daily occurrence. We regret also to know that some give way to a feeling of disappointment at the results thus far achieved. But if this Institution does not each year graduate a class of highly intelligent pupils, does it therefore do no good? Such a result was never promised, and could not reasonably have been expected. Others, again, appear to distrust the permanency of the benefits apparently secure!. According to such, we may expect that the best trained pupils, on leaving the Asylum, will lapse again into their former disagreeable and vicious habits. Fortunately, the experience gathered on this point both in this country and in Europe does not justify the fears of those persons of little faith. That this Institution has realized all reasonable expectations entertained at its organization,* your own observation, gentlemen, must have proved. It is hoped, therefore, that its capacity may be increased, and its benefits enjoyed by a much larger number of this helpless class, not only for their own good, but also for the relief of their friends and community.

FINANCIAL.

The expenditures of the Institution for the past year have been kept within its income. A detailed account of receipts and disbursements will be found appended. The following is a general statement:

GENERAL EXPENSES.

Receipts.	Disbursements.
1860. Bal in treas, Nov. 1, \$1,432 57	Cash paid for sundries \$5,520 82
" Appropriat'n, Mar. 24 1,500 00	Bal. in treas., Nov. 1, 1861 1,411 75
1861. " Apr 20 4,000 00	
\$6,932 57	\$6,932 57
	SALARIES.
1860. Bal. in treas., Nov. 15 \$525 00	Disbursed..... \$2,160 00
1861. Appropriat'n, Apr. 20 1,750 00	Bal. in treas., Nov. 1, 1861 115 00
\$2,275 00	\$2,275 00

SALARIES

SALARIES.			
1860. Bal. in treas., Nov. 15	\$525 00	Disbursed.....	\$2,160 00
1861. Appropriat'n, Apr. 20	1,750 00	Bal. in treas., Nov. 1, 1861	115 00
	-----		-----
	\$2,275 00		\$2,275 00

* PREAMBLE TO ACT CREATING INSTITUTION.

“ WHEREAS, The State has recognized the education of its youth *as a duty* incumbent upon the State, and has provided for those who are not susceptible of improvement in common schools, modes of instruction adapted to their wants and capabilities; and, whereas, it appears by the report of the Secretary of State that there are a large number of idiotic youth resident within its borders, who are incapable of improvement in ordinary public or private schools, who are a burden to their friends and to community, objects of commiseration, degraded and helpless; and, whereas, experience has satisfactorily demonstrated, that under the system of instruction adopted in schools for idiots in other States and in Europe, that these youths may be elevated, their habits corrected, and their health and morals greatly improved, and they be enabled to obtain their own support; now, therefore, in the discharge of the duty of the State, to educate its weak and helpless children, as well as the gifted and strong, and to elevate a hitherto neglected class: Be it enacted ” etc.. etc.

At the date of the last report there was a balance of \$518 79 in the hands of the Superintendent, received on account of paying pupils. This year \$873 51 has been received, making a total of \$1,392 29 of this sum. \$457 70 was expended under your direction in the purchase of furniture, and \$360 in the repair and improvement of buildings. The balance of this fund has been applied to current expenses, for which see bills and vouchers on file. The appropriation for salaries of officers and teachers for the first quarter of the year 1861, having been omitted, it will be necessary to supply that deficiency, the salaries for that period, amounting to \$525, still remaining unpaid.

Estimates for the year 1862.

For rent of buildings and insurance.....	\$525 00
Salaries of officers and teachers.....	2,100 00
Wages.....	1,332 00
Fuel and lights.....	350 00
Feed for stock.....	270 00
Provisions, necessary repairs, &c.....	2,985 00

Gentlemen, with a lively sense of your uniform kindness and zealous co-operation, and commanding our dependent charge unto Him from whom all help must come, the above is respectfully submitted.

G. A. DOREN,
Superintendent.

APPENDIX.

Ohio State Asylum for Idiots—Payments of General Expenses.

Date.	To whom Paid.	On what Account.	Amount,
1860.			
Sept. 25	H. M. Bassett.....	Wages	\$10 00
	Nancy Peyton.....	Wages	8 00
29	P. J. Lofland.....	Building wood shed, etc.....	129 02
Oct. 1	Fred. Schmidt.....	Wages	43 00
2	same	Wages	14 00
2	Elizabeth Rikar.....	Wages	14 00
4	Catharine Riddle.....	Wages	32 00
9	Gorton & Aston	Stoves, rep. furnaces, tinware, etc	58 41
	G. W. Curder.....	Lumber.....	32 03
	P. Bain	Dry goods, boys' clothing, etc..	38 59
	Matilda Wolfel.....	Wages.....	16 00
26	Lena Schneider	Wages.....	16 00
Nov. 3	S. Edwards	29 bushels corn	8 85
10	E. Kreider	16 cords woods	35 80
19	J. D. Osborn & Co.....	Dry goods	121 92
	W. B. Brooks & Co	3,623 bushels coal.....	265 28
20	Elizabeth Rikar.....	Wages	10 14
	Joseph C. Cloud	Groceries.....	13 90
21	James B. Peak	Painting and rep. market buggy	13 75
22	Nancy Peyton.....	Wages.....	8 00
	Clara N. Smith	Wages	8 00
	A. W. Penny	Wages	5 00
	Wm. Lindsey	Mason's work.....	8 50
23	Lena Schneider	Wages	8 00
	Elizabeth Korrell.....	Wages	16 00
27	H. M. Bassett	Wages	5 00
28	Jane Hills	Wages	10 00
30	Kate Riddle.....	Wages	8 00
	Matilda Wolfel	Wages	8 00
Dec. 13	Wm. McDonald	Groceries	67 13
	J. & L Zettler.....	Groceries	38 63
14	Nancy Peyton.....	Wages	16 00
15	Clara N. Smith.....	Wages	16 00
15	J. & L Zettler	Groceries	36 00
17	Matilda Wolfel	Wages	8 00
19	H M. Bassett	Wages	10 00
	Jane Hills	Wages	5 00
20	A. W. Penny	Wages	10 00

PAYMENTS OF GENERAL EXPENSES—Continued.

Date.	To whom Paid.	On what Account.	Amount.	
1860.				
Dec. 24	M. McAllister	Flour, bran, etc	\$19 75	
25	P. J. Lofland	Carpenter work	8 25	
1861.				
Jan. 1	Mrs. C. Neville	Rent of buildings	125 00	
1	Lena Schneider	Wages	8 00	
1	Lizzie Korrill	Wages	16 00	
	H. M. Bassett	Wages	132 50	
	Kilbourne, Kuhns & Co	Hardware	20 38	
4	F. Halley	Repairs of closets, pumps, etc	43 71	
	N. B. Marple	Drugs and medicines	6 00	
	J. R. Paul & Co.	Ice	20 00	
5	Jane Hills	Wages	15 00	
	F. Schmidt	Wages	42 00	
	John Stone & Co	Dry goods	4 04	
	Deaf & Dumb Asylum	Pasturage	40 00	
	Columbus Gas Co	Gas light and fittings	20 05	
	Randall & Aston	Stationery	13 29	
	S E. Samuels & Co ...	Drugs and medicines	42 75	
8	Anna Rikar	Wages	14 00	
16	Nancy Peyton	Wages	8 00	
18	Matilda Wolfel	Wages	8 00	
21	Kate Riddle	Wages	24 00	
23	John Clark	Shoes for children and repairs	75 30	
	Wm. Blynn	Clocks and repairs	8 00	
	Wm. Cox	Meat	107 89	
	J. R. Cook	Drugs, medicines, etc	6 88	
	G. W. Howell	Harness and repairs	32 77	
	Stone & O'Harra	Furnishing goods	159 31	
	Shoedinger & Brown ..	Furniture	16 17	
28	Wm. McDonald	Groceries and provisions	40 38	
	Clara N. Smith	Wages	8 00	
Feb.	1	Lena Schneider	Wages	8 00
	Kate Riddle	Wages	8 00	
	Nancy Peyton	Wages	8 00	
8	F. Schmidt	Wages	17 00	
11	Columbus Gas Co	Gas in January	18 15	
12	A. W. Penny	Wages	20 00	
18	H. M. Bassett	Wages	10 00	
19	R. E. Morris	11 days' labor	5 00	
28	N. Mix	Hay and butter	14 40	
March	4	Elizabeth Korrill	Wages	24 00
	12	Columbus Gas Co	Gas in February	12 00
	18	Anna Rikar	Wages	21 00
	25	Matilda Wolfel	Wages	8 00
	28	A. W. Penny	Wages	10 00
	29	H. M. Bassett	Wages	10 00
April	1	C. Knorr	Wages	15 00
	3	J. Gillett	1 washing machine	15 00

PAYMENTS OF GENERAL EXPENSES—Continued.

Date.	To whom Paid.	On what Account.	Amount.
1861.			
April 6	N. Mix.....	Hay and butter	\$13 20
8	Columbus Gas Co.....	Gas in March.....	10 50
10	Nancy Peyton.....	Wages	10 00
	Jane Hills	Wages	10 00
12	Mrs. C. M. Neville	Rent of buildings.....	125 00
18	Rosanna King	Wages	7 00
22	Clara N. Smith.....	Wages	18 00
	Jane Hills	Wages	20 00
25	Lena Schneider.....	Wages	24 00
26	A. G. Penny.....	Wages	20 00
27	Nancy M. Peyton.....	Wages	12 00
30	C. P. L. Butler & Co..	Crackers, Spices, etc.....	43 57
May 2	Wm. Cox	Meat and provisions	151 79
4	Brotherlin, Halm & Co.	Furniture and repairs	61 75
13	Columbus Gas Co.....	Gas in April.....	7 37
15	Geo. & Wm. McDonald	Grocery bill for one year.....	848 11
	H. M. Bassett	Wages	20 00
22	Catharine Riddle.....	Wages	24 00
29	Wm. Jamison, Agt....	Policy of insurance	25 00
June 5	A. W. Penny	Wages	10 00
8	Elizabeth Korrell	Wages	16 00
10	C. Knorr	Wages	15 00
13	Clara N. Smith	Wages	32 00
	Nancy M. Peyton	Wages	11 50
14	Jane Hills	Wages	20 00
17	Matilda Wolfel	Wages	16 00
	H. M. Bassett	Wages	10 00
	Rosanna King.....	Wages	14 00
22	W. E. Ide	3,800 bushels coal.....	299 25
	Lena Schneider.....	Wages	16 00
July 2	A. W. Penny.....	Wages	50 00
6	M. McAllister	Flour, bran, oats, etc	89 92
8	Mrs. C. M. Neville	Rent of buildings.....	125 00
	Brooks & Champion...	100 bushels coal	9 00
10	Rosanna King	Wages	7 00
18	Jane Hills	Wages	10 00
12	Sarah E. Jones	Wages	8 00
23	Catharine Obetz	Butter	34 31
Aug. 1	Matilda Wolfel	Wages	32 0
3	Noble Mix.....	Hay	16 00
	same	Butter	10 30
7	George Schott.....	Plastering	21 30
14	I. W. Carpenter & Co.	Clothing for pupils.....	20 40
17	Francis Hunter	65 bushels oats.....	13 00
	M. McAllister	Flour and feed.....	35 30
24	E. & H. F. Booth.....	Repairing wagon	21 10
26	H. H. Chariton	Blacksmith work	22 00
29	J. C. Sigler	20 $\frac{3}{4}$ cords wood	44 61

PAYMENTS OF GENERAL EXPENSES—Continued.

Date.	To whom Paid.	On what Account.	Amount.
1861.			
Sept. 2	A. W. Penny	Wages	\$26 50
	Jane E. Hills.....	Wages	15 00
	Rosa King.....	Wages	7 00
5	Shoedinger & Brown..	2 doz. Swedish clubs for gymnasium	4 80
6	Elizabeth Korrell	Wages 4 months as washer	32 00
12	H. M. Bassett	Wages 5 months 2 days, attendant	76 00
23	Ann Tivis	Wages 2 months, attendant	16 00
27	C. Knorr	Wages 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ months, laborer	25 00
30	Jane Hills	Wages 1 month, seamstress	10 00
	A. W. Penny	Wages 1 month, attendant	15 00
Oct. 2	Rosa King.....	Wages 1 month, cook	7 00
4	Mrs. C. M. Neville....	Rent of buildings.....	125 00
7	Columbus Gas Co.....	Gas and fittings	16 41
	Wm. Cox.....	Meat bill 5 months.....	115 65
	Gorton & Aston	Repairing furnaces, tinware, etc..	41 43
10	Rosa King.....	Wages 9 days, cook	2 10
14	Matilda Wolfel	Wages 1 month	8 00
15	Sarah E. Jones	Wages 2 months	16 00
		Total	\$5,520 82

Total revenues from appropriations for general expenses for the fiscal year ending Oct 31, 1861.....	\$6,932 57
Total disbursements	5,520 82
Balance remaining in Treasury to credit of general expenses	
Nov. 1, 1861.....	\$1,411 75

Ohio State Asylum for Idiots—Payment of Salaries of Officers and Teachers.

Date.	To whom Paid.	On what Account.	Amount.
1860—Oct. 30	R. J. Patterson.....	Salary as Superintendent.....	\$200 00
1861—Jan. 4	same -----	" " -----	100 00
24	same -----	" " -----	200 00
1860—Nov. 19	Miss H. F. Purple.....	" Matron -----	50 00
Dec. 26	same -----	" " -----	25 00
1861—March 5	same -----	" " -----	25 00
May 1	same -----	" " -----	50 00
14	same -----	" " -----	50 00
Sept. 2	same -----	" " -----	100 00
21	same -----	" " -----	25 00
1860—Nov. 19	Miss J. B. Burbank.....	" Teacher -----	50 00
1861—Jan. 21	same -----	" " -----	50 00
May 1	same -----	" " -----	75 00
July 1	same -----	" " -----	125 00
Mar. 19	Miss E. C. Whitman.....	" " -----	25 00
July 1	same -----	" " -----	110 00
1	same -----	" " -----	50 00
May 1	Miss L. N. Hutchinson.....	" " -----	100 00
July 1	same -----	" " -----	50 00
March 2	G. A. Doren.....	" Superintendent.....	100 00
May 15	same -----	" " -----	200 00
July 8	same -----	" " -----	200 00
Aug. 30	same -----	" " -----	200 00
	Total.....		\$2,160 00

Total revenues f r Salaries, for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, 1861. \$2,275 00
 Disbursements..... 2,160 00

Balance remaining in Treas. to credit of Salaries, Nov. 1, 1861. \$115 00

C I R C U L A R.

OHIO STATE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS, }
COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 1, 1862. }

TRUSTEES,

Hon. HERMAN CANFIELD.....MEDINA
Hon. N. S. TOWNSHEND, M.D.....AVON, O.
W. E. IDE, M.D.....COLUMBUS, O.

SUPERINTENDENT,

G. A. DOREN, M.D.

THIS INSTITUTION was established in the year 1857, by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, and located near the city of Columbus.

Its object is, to furnish *special* means of improvement to that portion of our youth who are so deficient in mind, or have such marked peculiarities and eccentricities of intellect, as to deprive them of the benefits of other educational institutions and ordinary methods of instruction.

The education proposed will include not only the simple elements of instruction taught in common schools, where that is practicable, but will embrace a course of training in the more practical matters of every day life, the cultivation of habits of cleanliness, propriety, self-management, self-reliance, and the development and enlargement of a capacity for useful occupation. As promotive of these objects, pupils will receive such physical education, and such medical, moral and hygienic treatment, as their peculiar and varied conditions demand.

Idiocy and mental imbecility depend upon some abnormal or imperfectly developed condition of the physical system—a condition in which the nervous organization is especially defective, preventing the harmonious and natural development of the mental and moral powers.

Idiots and imbeciles are feeble in body as well as mind. They are wanting in muscular and nervous power, the gait and voluntary movements are generally awkward and slow, and the special senses undeveloped or inactive. Physical training and physical development will, therefore, be essential to permanent mental improvement, and hence the importance of gymnastic and calisthenic exercises in treatment. The reciprocal influence of the body over the mind, and the mind over the body, must be carefully studied and applied. The dormant energies of the body must be aroused to action by every possible means. The wayward muscles are to be taught to move in obedience to the dim spark of will that may exist, which will must be strengthened and developed. The very feeble power of attention must be cultivated and increased by the most attractive means. The affections must be nursed—the special senses trained and educated—vicious habits are to be corrected, and the idea of obedience and moral obligation must be planted and nourished.

Some feeble-minded youth give evidence of slight chronic irritation of the brain, obscure delusions, and other marks of partial insanity, or *mental derangement*, rather than of idiocy. Such cases cannot be properly treated by the family physician at home, and should, therefore, be removed to some institution where they can receive that treatment and training best adapted to their restoration.

Some who are merely backward, and remain undeveloped from being misunderstood, neglected, or abused, can by special means, be brought out, and reclaimed. Others can be arrested in their downward course, and made orderly, obedient, affectionate, docile and industrious; and nearly all can be materially improved in their general condition and habits. But, in order to secure the realization of these blessings to this afflicted class, they must have that special care, treatment and instruction which cannot be obtained in the family at home, or in private medical practice, or by any of the ordinary methods of instruction, but only in some well directed institution arranged, furnished and organized for the accomplishment of these special objects.

Where there is partial insanity, or marks of existing nervous irritation, or other disease, medical and other appropriate treatment will be applied. Each individual case will be a study, and must be treated as its peculiarities demand.

ADMISSION OF PUPILS, Etc.

Children between the ages of six and fifteen, who are idiotic, or so peculiar or deficient in intellect as to be incapable of being educated at any ordinary school, may be admitted by the Superintendent, with the advice and counsel of the Executive Committee. Applications in behalf of others shall be referred to the action of the Board of Trustees.

The parents, or next friends of those in whose behalf applications are made for admission as pupils, are expected to make answers in writing to such questions as the Superintendent may prescribe.

Commodious buildings, in a healthy and accessible location, and a special system of instruction, training and management, render this Institution a desirable residence for all children deficient in mind, or with marked eccentricities and peculiarities of intellect.

The law provides that parents, guardians, &c., "shall, if of sufficient ability, engage to pay such reasonable sum for the education and support of pupils, and furnish them with such proper clothing while in this Institution as shall be stipulated by the Superintendent; and they shall, in all cases, be bound to receive them back when required, free of expense to the Institution."

"As provided by the law, 'the directors of county and city infirmaries, or the township trustees in any county where there is no county infirmary, may remove to said asylum any idiotic and imbecile youth who may be properly admitted therein, and in such cases, said directors or township trustees shall support said youth at said asylum from any funds under their control applicable to the support of such infirmaries or township poor.'

"The State beneficiaries will be selected in equal numbers, as far as may be, from each judicial district; Provided, that no youth shall be admitted as a State beneficiary as aforesaid, unless the probate judge of the county where said youth shall reside, shall certify that he or she is in indigent circumstances, and has resided in the State at least one year previous to such application."

All pupils will be expected to come provided with a supply of neat and substantial clothing, adequate for the first six months. A bond will be required, in all cases, to insure the clothing and removal of the pupil, when required by the Superintendent, free of expense to the Institution.

There will be a vacation during the month of August, unless otherwise directed by the Board, at which period all pupils must be removed by the parents or guardians, unless otherwise directed by the Superintendent.

The law provides that "it shall be the duty of the Trustees of this Asylum to receive propositions for donations of land or money for the benefit of said Institution."

Applications for the admission of pupils, and all other general correspondence, should be directed to "Superintendent of State Asylum for Idiots," Columbus, Ohio.

G. A. D.

